November 8, 1951

Dear Roger-

Just a hasty note on three small items:

1) Just read your review in Ann Rev (hastily). I liked it very much except for one thing: "the discovery of recombination by Lederberg". Tatum is very much a part of that story, and the discovery should be cited as L&T if not T&L. If this were an isolated occurrence, I wouldn't bother mentioning it, but this is probably about the 20th time it has come up, and I don't want the misimpression to be propagated any more than necessary. I don't see that anything can be done about it now, I will admit.

2) Oginsky finally answered my letter to Umbreit asking for strains. They are promised for soon.

3) To Gunny as much as yourself (will you tell him?)— I'll bring an auxotrophic A3.12 with me to Chicago this weekend on the chance (hinted by Aaron) that I may meet him there. I will also have a hitherto unidentified yeast extract mutant already picked up that conceivably might be what you're looking for. As to technique, I have been using Davis' minimal medium, with aeration, at 30°. Penicillin 500-1000 units overnight. (no aeration). Plate on nutrient or EMB agar; look for auxotrophs among the survivors by replica plating. The inocula are grown from washed cells exposed 60 secs. to a sterilamp, 15 W, at 50 cm. I don't have the killing curves with our lamp, offhand.

However, I have a student working on a simplification of Adelberg's idea for keeping auxotroph clones together. (Delbruck would call it the Lederberg-Lederberg&Lederberg-Adelberg-Davis-Lederberg&Zinder method). If it works, I'll send details. It depends on plating irradiated cells directly on agar, incubating there, replicating to minimal-penicillin, incubating to kill prototrophs, replicating again to complete medium to recover auxotrophs, then testing by replica to minimal to find out which are mutants. Adelberg was doing the same thing by delayed enrichment.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg